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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,
in charge of U. S. National Museum

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

Washington, June 18, 18 89.

*Professor Sereno Watson,
Botanic Garden,
Cambridge, Mass.*

My dear Sir:

I am much mortified to find in one of the corners of my desk a letter from you, unanswered which has lain there so long that I think I wont refer to it by date -- hoping that you did not keep a record of the time when you sent it.

It is not quite a year old, however, and I had a reason for delaying at first -- which was that I hoped that a more definite organization of the botanical collections would be soon effected, and that then I could reply satisfactorily to your questions. It took longer than I had anticipated to bring this about.

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I presume you know that all the botanical interests of the Smithsonian and the Department of Agriculture are now united. Doctor Vasey, as honorary Curator of Botany in the National Museum, has charge of all the collections (the National Herbarium). A sectional herbarium is retained in the Museum building for the use of Prof. Ward in his paleobotanical work.

The annual Museum Report on the botanical collections will hereafter be prepared by Dr. George Vasey. We shall be very glad to have your assistance and coöperation in the development of the National Herbarium. Everything which is sent to the National Museum and Smithsonian Institution for the National Herbarium will pass at once into the custody of Dr.

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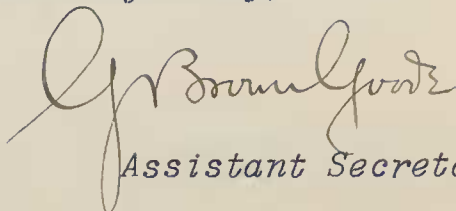
Washington,

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Vasey. It is an understood thing that as soon as we shall have sufficient room, the National Herbarium will be transferred to one of the Museum buildings, although Dr. Vasey will always retain his position as Curator, and it is probable that, should he ever relinquish his position as Botanist of the Department of Agriculture, his successor in that position will continue the same relations to the Museum which Dr. Vasey now holds.

I hope that we may see you in Washington before long, and have an opportunity to talk over these matters with you, and to show you the work which has been done here in botany and in the other departments of scientific investigation.

Yours very truly,



Assistant Secretary.